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The seed at first coming out is very white, but within a day it becoms greenish, then red, at last by little and little gray, which colour it retains alwaies, the most coloured of an obscure gray, being the best; those grains, which never quit their whiteness, having no fecundity in them.

Each female emits ordinarily some 300. grains, more or less, some of them not being able to render them all, and dying with them in their belly. One ounce of seed will require an hundred pair of *Cases*, of as many Males as Females.

Care must be taken, that no Rats, Mice, Ants, or other *Verm*, nor any Hens, or Birds, come neer the Seed, they being very greedy to eat them.

This is the substance of what is contained in this *French* Author, published at *Paris* on purpose to promote the *Making* of *Silk* there, as well as it is practised already in other parts of that Kingdom: which is represented here, to the end, that from this occasion the design, which the English Nation once did entertain of the *increasing* of *Mulberry-trees*, and the *Breeding* of *Silk-worms*, for the *making* of *Silk* within themselves, may be renewed, and that encouragement, given by King *James* of Glorious memory for that purpose (witness that *Letter* which he directed to the Lords Lieutenants of the severall shires of *England*) and seconded by his *Most Excellent Majesty*, that now is, be made use of, for the honour of *England* and *Virginia*, and the increase of wealth to the people thereof: especially since there is cause of hope, that a *double Silk-harvest* may be made in *one* Summer in *Virginia*, without hindring in the least the *Tobacco-Trade* of that Countrey.

Enquiries concerning Agriculture.

Whereas the *Royal Society*, in prosecuting the *Improvements* of *Natural knowledg*, have it in design, to collect *Histories* of *Nature and Arts*, and for that purpose have already, according to the severall Inclinations and Studies of their Members, divided themselves into divers *Committees*, to execute the said design: Those Gentlemen, which do constitute the *Committee* for considering of *Agriculture*, and the *History* and *Improvement* thereof, have begun their work with drawing up certain
Heads

Heads of Enquiries, to be distributed to persons *Experienced* in Husbandry all over *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*, for the procuring a *faithful* and *solid* information of the *knowledg* and *practice* already obtained and used in these Kingdoms ; whereby , besides the aid which by this means will be given to the general End of collecting the aforementioned *History*, every place will be advantaged by the helps, that are found in any, and occasion ministred to consider, what improvements may be further made in this whole matter. Now to the End, that those *Enquiries* may be the more universally known , and those who are skilful in Husbandry , publickly invited to impart their knowledg herein, for the *common* benefit of their Countrey, it hath been thought fit to publish the *effect* of them in Print, and withall to desire, that what such persons shall think good from their own *Knowledg* and *Experience* to communicate hereupon, they would be pleased to send it to the Printers of the *Royal Society*, to be delivered to either of the *Secretaries* of the same. The Enquiries follow.

1. For *Arable*.

1. The several kinds of the soyls of *England*, being supposed to be , either Sandy, Gravelly, Stony , Clayie , Chalky, Light-mould, Heathy, Marish, Boggy, Fenny , or Cold weeping Ground ; information is desired , what kind of soyls your Country doth most abound with, and how each of them is prepared, when employed for *Arable* ?

2. What *peculiar* preparations are made use of to these Soyls for each kind of Grain ; with what kind of Manure they are prepared when, how, & in what quantity the Manure is laid on ?

3. At what seasons and how often they are ploughed ; what kind of Ploughs are used for several sorts of Ground ?

4. How long the several Grounds are let ly fallow ?

5. How, and for what productions, *Heathy* Grounds may be improved ? And who they are (if there be any in your Country) that have reduced *Heaths* into profitable Lands ?

6. What ground *Marle* hath over head ? How deep generally it lieth from the surface ? What is the depth of the *Marle* it self ? What the colour of it ? Upon what grounds it is used ?

What

What time of the year it is to be laid on? How many loads to an Acre? What Grains *Marled* Land will bear, and how many years together? How such *Marled* Land is to be used afterwards, &c?

7. The kinds of Grain or Seed, usual in *England*, being supposed to be either Wheat, Miscelane, Rye, Barley, Oats, Pease, Beans, Fitches, Buck-wheat, Hemp, Flax, Rape; We desire to know, what sorts of Grains are sown in your Country, and how each of these is prepared for Sowing? Whether by *steeping*, and in what kind of Liguor? Or by mixing it, and with what?

8. There being many sorts of Wheat, as the White or Red Lammas, the bearded Kentish Wheat, the gray Wheat, the red or gray Pollard, the Ducks-bill Wheat, the red-eared-bearded Wheat, &c. And so of Oats, as the common Black, Blue, Naked, Bearded in *North-wales*: and the like of Barley, Pease, Beans. &c. The Enquiry is, which of these grow in your Country, and in what Soyl; and which of them thrive best there; and whether each of them require a peculiar Tillage; and how they differ in goodness?

9. What are the chief particulars observable in the choice of Seed corn, and all kinds of Grain; and what kinds of Grain are most proper to succeed one another?

10. What Quantity of each kind is sown upon the Statute-Acre? And in what season of the Moon and year 'tis sowed?

11. With what instruments they do Harrow, Clod and Rowl, and at what seasons?

12. How much an Acre of good Corn, well ordered, generally useth to yield, in very good, in less good, and in the worst years?

13. Some of the common Accidents and Diseases befalling Corn in the growth of it, being Meldew, Blasting, Smut; what are conceived to be the Causes thereof, & what the Remedies?

14. There being other Annoyances, the growing Corn is exposed to, as Weeds, Worms, Flies, Birds, Mice, Moles, &c. how they are remedied?

15. Upon what occasions they use to cut the young Corn in the Blade, or to feed it; and what are the benefits thereof?

16. What are the seasons and waies of Reaping and Ordering each sort of Grain, before it be carried off the Ground?

17. What

17. VVhat are the several waies of preserving Grain in the Straw, within and without doors, from all kind of Annoyance, as Mice, Heating, Rain, &c?

18. VVhat are the waies of separating the several sorts of Grain from the Straw, and of dressing them?

19. VVhat are the waies of preserving any stores of separated Grain, from the Annoyances they are obnoxious to?

2. For Meadows.

1. How the above-mentioned sorts of Soyl are prepared, when they are used for Pasture or Meadow?

2. The common Annoyances of these Pasture or Meadow Grounds being supposed to be, either Weeds, Moss, Sour-grass, Heath, Fern, Bushes, Bryars, Brambles, Broom, Rushes, Sedges, Gorse or Furzes; what are the Remedies thereof?

3. VVhat are the best waies of Drayning Marshes, Boggs, Fenns, &c?

4. VVhat are the several kinds of Grass, and which are counted the best?

5. VVhat are the chief circumstances observable in the Cutting of Grass; and what in the making and preserving of Hay?

6. VVhat kind of Grass is fittest to be preserved for winter-feeding? And what Grass is best for Sheep, for Cows, Oxen, Horses, Goats, &c.

Advertisement.

The Reader is hereby advertised, that by reason of the present Contagion in London, which may unhappily cause an interruption aswel of Correspondencies, as of Publick Meetings, the printing of these Philosophical Transactions may possibly for a while be intermitted; though endeavors shall be used to continue them, if it may be.

L O N D O N,

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